

**AN INTRA-VAGINAL SELF-ADMINISTERED CELL COLLECTING
DEVICE AND METHOD**

Abstract of Disclosure

[0029] An intra-vaginal self-administered cell collecting device and method includes inserting a tampon-like telescoping tube intra-vaginally. The tube includes an expandable preformed absorbent member having a textured cover. The absorbent member also includes a retrieval member extending therefrom. The tube is manipulated to expel the absorbent member intra-vaginally. The tube is removed and the absorbent member is retained intra-vaginally for a period of time. The absorbent member is retained from expanding from its preform when exposed to vaginal fluids by means of a cover on the absorbent material. The cover also captures sloughed-off cells in the vaginal fluids. The absorbent material is retrieved manually by the retrieval member.